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(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) joined Democrats in the House today to pass **H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act -- the FY 2007 Supplemental Appropriations bill, in a vote which ended the past Republican Congress' practice of rubber stamping the Bush administration's policies.** The bill ensures U.S. troops have the proper equipment and training as well as time between deployments.

Instead of endorsing President Bush's open-ended commitment to a stay the course strategy, the new Democratic Congress continues to work in opposition to the President's policies while also showing an unwavering support of our troops. The legislation holds the Bush Administration and the Iraqi government accountable and sets a responsible timeline for the phased redeployment of U.S. troops.

"In less than three months, the House has already held over 50 hearings in oversight of the Administration." Carnahan said. **"Unlike the past Congress, we've held open debate on the war and are now taking steps to legislatively address the war in Iraq through this supplemental funding measure. This plan is the strongest and most powerful consensus statement that can force change in Iraq."**

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health, and Iraq Accountability Act provides American troops with the equipment they need, requires Iraqis to take responsibility for their own country, helps fight the war on terror and establishes a responsible strategy for the redeployment of U.S. troops. The bill also refocuses the war on terror against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, provides additional funding for Homeland Security and provides additional support for our veterans.

"Our troops have become referees in a sectarian civil war, and it is important that we change our mission from combat to training so that they can be redeployed. No military solution can force democracy on the Iraqi people; we must enhance our diplomatic and political efforts to end the Iraqi government's ability to continue to use the U.S. as a crutch or excuse for their nonperformance," Carnahan said.

The legislation provides the troops with a clear mission and requires Iraqis to take control of Iraq by meeting the key security, political and economic benchmarks established by the President in his January 10 address, forcing Iraq to take accountability of the situation.

This emergency appropriations bill also provides more of the necessary funding for the greater protection of our troops and our veterans than the President's request. It includes \$1.7 billion above the President's request for initiatives to address the health care needs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and the backlog in maintaining VA health care facilities to make sure no veterans are ever subjected to disgraceful conditions like those uncovered at Walter Reed.

The bill has garnered widespread support throughout Congress as well as the country. It is endorsed by military leaders and generals, Moveon.org, former Congressman Lee Hamilton, co-author of the Iraq Study Group and former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski.